

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendment above and comments which follow.

First of all, regarding the claim objection, claim 16 is, indeed, a duplicate and has been cancelled.

The Examiner has rejected the claims of the application as either being anticipated by, or obvious over, Cook U.S. Patent No. 6,675,975. Reconsideration is requested. The applicant was fully aware of Cook when filing the present application, since Cook is an earlier case owned by the same assignee as the present application. It is submitted that independent claim 13, and its dependent claims, are allowable over Cook, as will be explained further below.

The Examiner has made specific mention to portions of Cook et al which disclose certain features of independent claim 13. However, the Examiner has not made any mention of where the unique feature of the hollow box-section members which define a rectilinear sub-frame may be found.

It appears that the Examiner has interpreted the requirement in claim 13 that "hollow box-section members which define a rectilinear sub-frame", means that the frame, as a whole, is rectangular in shape. That is incorrect. The feature of claim 13 is the provision of hollow box-section members, which together provide rigidity by forming a sub-frame. Discussion of this feature can be found on page 7, where Figures 5 to 7 are discussed. Reading this paragraph in combination with viewing Figures 5 to 7 shows clearly that the invention relates to hollow cross-section reinforcing beams. Such features cannot be found in Cook et al, and so claim 13 is submitted to be allowable over Cook et al for this reason, alone.

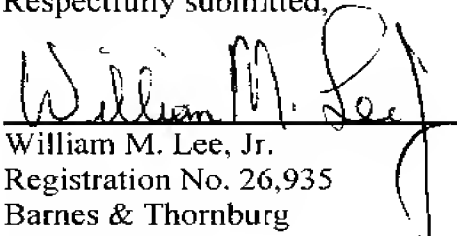
The secondary references and the dependent claims thus warrant little additional discussion. However, the Examiner's comments and reference to claim 19 further highlight the fact that the Examiner appears to have misinterpreted the meaning of claim 13. Claim 19 relates to the box-section members having a square cross-section. The Examiner considers that this is obvious because the Examiner seems to think that Cook et al discloses a

rectangular cross-section box-section member. However this is simply not the case. As pointed out above, Cook et al only discloses a rectangular frame, when viewed from above.

It is therefore submitted that, given the fact that claim 13 is allowable over the prior art, the remaining claims are allowable, as well, and nothing further need be discussed to belabor the record. The Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore urged.

May 6, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looped "L" and a trailing flourish.

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